



ARMY AIR FORCES BASIC FLYING SCHOOL
GOODFELLOW FIELD, TEXAS

Saturday ?
Aug. 8, 1942

Hello gang,

I'll start this now. but I'll have to do it by stages. - It's too much to hope that they would leave us long enough to write a whole letter at one sitting!

We got in as per schedule Thursday morning and fire-works started almost immediately - or I really should say the intimidation period started. That seems to be the whole theme right now - to scare us and emphasize how hard it is here. They call us to lectures where they tell us how many gigs we get for doing nothing, and what the punishment for them is; the upper classmen, while they aren't quartered with us in our barracks, worry the heck out of us - so all in all, we've been worked up to an awful high state of nervous tension. - Yesterday morning they held an inspection and upper-classmen were along to heckle us while the officers did the inspecting. - They'd walk up to a man and yell at them, asking their names, etc. - (called "sounding off") - Oh very messy & nerve racking. Just to show you. - one was walking by me in the aisle, when suddenly he whirled and yelled.

for me to "sound off." Why he yelled so loud & startled me so, I actually jumped. I wouldn't be surprised if I didn't leave the floor! - And to prove it isn't just me, the two fellows on either side of me jumped too! Honestly, - I look to see somebody let off with a yell and start running down the barrack leaping from cot to cot!

I can't really understand just the ~~necessity~~ ^(got it now) necessity for it all. - We've certainly been in long enough to know what we can do and can't do. - The only possible reason I can think of is - they think we're kinda blown up with our own importance after having finished primary and this is their way of giving us back an inferiority complex! - Hell, - they're successful! -

This is the same phase of the course that they have at Randolph - c'est of course Randolph is on a much larger scale, - older, and gets all the glory. - Goodfellow Field - I can't say. - I've seen the planes but not the actual field. - We're supposed to go to the flight line this afternoon and meet our instructors. - From now on they're officers - we're thru with civilians. - From our Basic training we're picked to go into the different branches of flying. - i.e., pursuit, - light or heavy bombers. - Which ever they decide we're best suited for. - well that's the kind of advanced training we get. - Don't know just what determines the selection. - Probably the speed of grasping hold of things, - our reactions, and anything else that they want to be an influencing

factor. But let's ² get back to the present, that's what I'm sweating out now!-

Oh, yes - did I mention a little drill now and then? - Well just in case I didn't - we drill here again. - Morning, noon, and after supper till almost dark! - I guess that's just to get us back into the Army swing of it. - Oh, well, - I used to drill all day with never anything else to look forward to!

Sunday afternoon late. -

Just got loose the first time since I left this yesterday. They drilled us till most dark last night and after that I went to the post movie. It was either that or go stir crazy! This A.M. - the same as a regular day - except we had a super-duper inspection, - each one of us being gone over with a fine toothed comb. - Some how or other I fooled em - I got by! More drill this afternoon - just waiting for the call now. Sunday?

Yesterday afternoon we went to the flight line and met our instructors - lieutenant Mine has 4 other students besides myself. Can't tell a whole lot about him. - He seemed very nice, a second Looie. He got his wings in April so it's all still new enough that he seems to sympathize with us. - He started up one of the planes, and showed us what to do in preparing to take off + land. - Tomorrow we get our first ride! - Golly day

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these planes are big! - Have to use flaps in taking off, even. - just like the Douglas passenger liners you see. - mixture control, adjustable pitch propeller and a million and ~~other~~ other things I don't know anything about. - I'll be stopping by to see you some day in a B-19! - They told us that when we learned to fly these planes here - we could fly anything! - And also, according to them, this is the last place we'll actually get individual instruction.

Sister, just hold on for your birthday present. - I ~~was~~ going to get you something in town but - as you see - no town! - Maybe the P.X. will have something. - probably not, tho. - so anyway, - if you'll hold on, - you'll get something eventually. - just don't think you're forgotten! -

Did my box arrive from Chickasha? - Don't know what to do with the stuff in it. - The wings just came in a few days before we left. - They are the same as we use on our uniforms except we use the tricky catch I mentioned before. - Thought this type would be better. - ~~Was~~ there enough to meet the demand. - Didn't know how many to send after you said Fred wanted some. - The coveralls can go to Fred if he wants 'em. - They are an extra pair I had left over when I turned in my enlisted man's equipment. - Don't sell them tho. - it's against the law! - The socks - I don't know. - They're too good to throw away. - They're wool - maybe you can dye 'em and Pop can wear them next winter.

They pulled what I've been looking for, today. - We were asked to sign part of our pay for war bonds! - The way they asked, we have no alternative, of course! Guess it's a good thing in a way, tho. - I'll just act as a savings - a sorta retirement fund in a way. - Guess we have to fight 'em & finance 'em too! -

How is the new job, Sister? -

Been thinking of a lot of things I wanted to say and ask. - but drill call again now, so better get this in the mail. -

Don't mind my griping, I'll be all right as soon as they let my fly and get on a ~~stiffer~~ definite schedule. - Besides, they say a soldier isn't happy until he gets to griping - Me - I'm getting ^{happier} every minute!

Love,
Frank

P.S. - Two hours later after chilling in the sun when it's over 100 in the barrack! - I'm even happier! - I forgot to tell you while they were doing all I've mentioned. - we also took an exam in 3 subjects we had in Chickasha! - They wanted to see how much we knew! - What we made didn't effect us personally one way or the other. - They were using it as a basis for grading the primary schools! - There are 3 different ones represented here, and Chickasha is the only one from outside of Texas. -

one thing more. - I forgot. - We are to take

an eye exam this week. - To see how our
eyes are standing up under the ~~a~~ flying strain -
"pilot fatigue" I believe is the proper term. - Well,
'Bye again - and if I don't get the chance again -
Happy Birthday, Sister!

JWL

P.P.S. Got Pop's letter today! - Not bad service eh?
Thanks for the clipping about Congressional Airport,
I didn't know the lady, tho I had seen her
around on Sundays ~~sees~~ occasionally. What
do you suppose "Art" has on the string? That
fellow probably has an Army primary all set
up in Florida or somewhere! - What sort of a
field will they make there? - Maybe I'll bring
my B-19 in on the same pattern I used to fly
my cubs in on! - I can see that!

F.

Mama says
please save Granks
letters & all you may
have on hand and all
you get in future she
wants to put in her
book